

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00095 181757Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 ONY-00 SS-15 /026 W
-----045697 181804Z /50

P 181530Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5053

S E C R E T TRIPOLI 0095

STADIS//////////

FOR NEA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MILI, LY
SUBJ: AIRCRAFT SALES AND MAINTENANCE

REF: STATE 011662

1. LIBYAN REACTION TO IMPLEMENTATION PROPOSALS PARA 1
REFTEL LIKELY TO BE SHARP BUT NOT CLEARLY PREDICTABLE.
IT SEEMS TO US THAT DENIAL OF OVERHAUL IN GEORGIA WOULD
MAKE POSITION OF LOCKHEED TECHNICIANS HERE VERY DIFFICULT
PARTICULARLY IF FLOW OF SPARES DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY IS
HALTED. THE LIBYANS WOULD PROBABLY EXPECT INITIAL NEGATIVE
DECISION ON OVERHAUL TO BE FOLLOWED BY OTHER NEGATIVE
ACTIONS. THUS INITIAL DECISION MIGHT TRIGGER SOME OF
RESPONSES SUGGESTED IN FOLLOWING PARAS. ON OTHER HAND IF
THEY BELIEVED FLOW OF SPARES COULD CONTINUE, LIKELIHOOD
AND SEVERITY OF LIBYAN RESPONSES WOULD DIMINISH.

2. SINCE WE WOULD BE DOING REAL DAMAGE TO MILITARY TRANSPORT
CAPABILITY QADHAFI WOULD PROBABLY TRY TO RESPOND IN MANNER
WHICH HE BELIEVED WOULD BE TRULY HARMFUL TO U.S. IN FIRST
INSTANCE HE WOULD CONCLUDE U.S. IS SEEKING TO DOWNGRADE
AND REDUCE LEVEL OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. SUCH CONCLUSION

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 TRIPOL 00095 181757Z

WOULD TEND TO REMOVE FEW RESTRAINTS ON LIBYAN BEHAVIOR
VIS-A-VIS U.S. WHICH HAVE BEEN KEPT IN PLACE BY HOPES
OF IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS.

3. AS WE SEE IT HIS RANGE OF OPTIONS ARE BOTH POLITICAL
AND ECONOMIC OR COMBINATION OF BOTH. AT EXTREME EDGE OF
POLITICAL RANGE IS BREAK IN RELATIONS, WHICH SEEMS UNLIKELY.

A LESSER VERSION WOULD BE TO REDUCE EMBASSY PRESENCE BY
EXPULSION OF PERSONNEL OR IMPOSITION OF PERSONNEL CEILING.
CONCURRENTLY WE COULD EXPECT SOME HARASSMENT OF EMBASSY OR,
LESS LIKELY, OF AMERICAN COMMUNITY.

4. IN CASE OF EXPULSION AND RECIPROCAL ACTION BY U.S.,
LIBYANS WOULD STILL COME OUT AHEAD IN TERMS OF BODIES.
IN CASE OF LIMITATIONS, LIBYANS WOULD SUFFER FROM REDUCED
STAFF IN WASHINGTON. ANOTHER EXTREME BUT UNLIKELY
POSSIBILITY WOULD BE RECALL OF LIBYAN STUDENTS. THIS IS
DOUBTFUL SINCE IT COULD CREATE INTERNAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS
AND MOBILIZE OPPOSITION.

5. MORE LIKELY RESPONSE WOULD BE IN ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL
FIELD. LEAST LIKELY WOULD BE ATTEMPT TO EMBARGO OIL SALES
TO U.S. WHICH MAY NOT BE PRACTICAL AND WOULD DEPRIVE LIBYA
OF BADLY NEEDED REVENUES.

6. ANOTHER MORE LIKELY POSSIBILITY WOULD BE NATIONALIZATION
OF ONE OR MORE OF REMAINING U.S. OIL COMPANIES. THE
PARTNERS IN OASIS ARE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE SINCE TWO
HOLDERS COULD BE NATIONALIZED AND THE THIRD LEFT ALONE TO
CONTINUE OPERATING THE OASIS PROPERTIES.

7. FINALLY, QADHAFI MIGHT TRY TO FOLLOW BOUMEDINNE'S
EXAMPLE VIS-A-VIS FRANCE AND CUT OFF ALL PURCHASES FROM
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 TRIPOL 00095 181757Z

U.S. EXCEPT WHERE U.S. IS ONLY ACCEPTABLE SOURCE. SUCH
ACTION WOULD BE JUSTIFIED INTER ALIA ON GROUNDS U.S. NOT
RELIABLE SUPPLIER (I.E., CUTS OFF SPARE PARTS, SERVICES)
AND SHOULD NOT BE DEPENDED ON MORE THAN ABSOLUTELY
NECESSARY.

8. ALL OF POSSIBLE LIBYAN REACTIONS WOULD, OF COURSE,
COST LIBYA BUT QADHAFI HAS IN PAST BEEN PREPARED TO
SUBORDINATE LIBYA'S INTERESTS TO HIS AMBITIONS OR RAGES
OF THE MOMENT. NEEDLESS TO SAY PROPOSED ACTION COULD
ALSO BE COSTLY TO U.S. IN VARIETY OF WAYS BUT PARTICULARLY
IN TERMS OF BALANCE OF PAYMENTS.

9. IN ANY OF PROPOSED U.S. ACTIONS IS IMPLEMENTED,
WE SUGGEST IT BE DONE IN FRANKLY POLITICAL CONTEXT AND
THAT LIBYANS BE SO INFORMED BOTH HERE IN WASHINGTON
TO BE SURE THEY GET MESSAGE. WE WOULD HOPE, HOWEVER, TO
LEAVE DOOR VISIBLY AJAR BY INFORMING LIBYANS THAT, WHILE
BASIC POLITICAL DIFFERENCES PREVENT ANY KIND OF MILITARY
RELATIONSHIP, U.S. PREPARED CONTINUE AND EVEN EXPAND
MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL CULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS
CITING WILLINGNESS ACCEPT LIBYAN STUDENTS AND NOTING

APPROVAL OF JET STAR SALE.

10. AS WE HAVE SAID IN PAST, U.S. DENUNCIATIONS, AS WELL
AS THOSE OF OTHERS, OF LIBYAN SUPPORT OF TERRORISM HAS
PROBABLY HAD SOME EFFECT. CERTAINLY LIBYAN RECORD ON
REFUSING LANDING RIGHTS FOR HIJACKED AIRCRAFT HAS IMPROVED
DURING PAST YEAR. PROBABLE ALSO THAT QADHAFI SOMEWHAT
MORE SENSITIVE, AT LEAST FOR PRESENT, TO SUPPORTING
TERRORIST OPERATIONS AGAINST U.S. PERSONNEL OR
INSTALLATIONS. WE SEE LITTLE HOPE, HOWEVER, OF CHANGING
HIS ATTITUDE ON MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT.
CARLE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT, MILITARY SALES, AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TRIPOL00095
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780027-0280
Format: TEL
From: TRIPOLI
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780148/aaaabobv.tel
Line Count: 127
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dcf33be2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY, STADIS
Reference: 78 STATE 11662
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3751256
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIRCRAFT SALES AND MAINTENANCE
TAGS: MASS, MILI, LY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dcf33be2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014